



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
KC FELON SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Nathan W. Smith, 39, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this morning to two years and nine months in federal prison without parole.

On June 30, 2004, **Smith** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Smith** admitted that he was in possession of an Inter Arms .357-caliber rifle on Aug. 8, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Smith** has a 2000 criminal felony conviction for forgery, a 1999 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance and a 1998 criminal felony conviction for forgery.

Smith was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on March 2, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelson. It was investigated by the Johnson County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Raytown, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow